

I would also regulate the insurance industry in Oregon. I support legislation that would require insurance companies to submit their proposed rate increases to the Oregon Insurance Commission. Business and consumer interests would be represented on the commission.

Are Democrats disappointed with Kulongoski?

They are really flocking to have this strong alternative voice. I'm not going to be concerned about what corporate lobbyists think about what I am saying. The kinds of issues I represent are really the issues that most Oregonians want for their government and want out of their governor. It's been a very exciting thing for people to come up to me and say, "Hey, I've heard about you. You're the guy that's running for governor that's not the corporate candidate."

What do you think about the enterprise zone tax break program?

It's another example, it's been a tax shift over to the largest corporations that tend to receive the biggest benefits. The [Eugene] enterprise zone primarily benefited Hynix. I was one of the no votes [on the County Commission] because of my concern over the tremendous shift in taxation.

This tax shift [concern] rises above such things as a Republican/Democrat issue, a liberal/conservative issue, the way that we often talk about Oregon politics. It gets to an issue of fairness. People can recognize fairness or unfairness when they see it. I will continue talking about this massive tax shift because I think it does separate me and clarify my public interest orientation towards the job of governor.

The governor recently said he wouldn't push the lottery commission to dedicate more video poker revenue to schools.

What do you think he should have done?

I don't think the lottery commission rates were set fairly. It was too heavily favoring the bars and taverns at the expense of school children. In the case of the Lane Transit District board, the people the governor appointed basically forced a strike over having the employees eat the health insurance costs. Both are examples of where the governor should have spoken out.

I would reduce the size of the lottery. Kulongoski opposed expanding the lottery as attorney general and now promotes the most addictive forms of gambling.

A growing chunk of the state budget is going to prisons. What do you think of talk of reforming Measure 11's long mandatory sentences?

Pugilist Populist Pete Sorenson



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